

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 1 and 19 and cancel Claims 14-18 as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

- 1) (Currently Amended) A two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
  - a) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction, the first adhesive-backed anchoring member being protected by a two-stage release liner system comprising:
    - i) a release liner with a bottom surface covering the adhesive-backed surface of the first anchoring member; and
    - ii) a semi-rigid tab attached to a portion of the top surface of the release liner, the semi-rigid tab comprising a first and a second edge, the first edge being oriented generally parallel to the a first wound edge of the first anchoring member and attached to the release liner at a position intermediate in the release liner between the portion of the release liner protecting the first wound edge and the portion of the release liner protecting the edge of the first anchoring member generally opposite the first wound edge, the second edge extending unattached beyond the first wound edge;  
the semi-rigid tab and release liner of the first component cooperating such that when the semi-rigid tab is flipped back onto the portion of the release liner to which it is not attached by adhesive, that portion of the release liner to which the tab is not attached remains fully adhered to the anchoring member;
  - b) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction, the second adhesive-backed anchoring member being protected by a two-stage release liner system comprising:
    - i) a release liner with a bottom surface covering the adhesive-backed surface of the second anchoring member; and

- ii) a semi-rigid tab attached to a portion of the top surface of the release liner, the semi-rigid tab comprising a first and a second edge, the first edge being oriented generally parallel to the a second wound edge of the second anchoring member and attached to the release liner at a position intermediate in the release liner between the portion of the release liner protecting the second wound edge and the portion of the release liner protecting the edge of the second anchoring member generally opposite the second wound edge, the second edge extending unattached beyond the second wound edge;

the semi-rigid tab and release liner of the second component cooperating such that when the semi-rigid tab is flipped back onto the portion of the release liner to which it is not attached by adhesive, that portion of the release liner to which the tab is not attached remains fully adhered to the anchoring member; and

- c) means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the connecting members to the anchoring members forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more connecting members, the attached portions being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members.
- 2) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 further comprising a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.
  - 3) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 2 wherein the pulling elements and anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
  - 4) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 2 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of connecting members are removable following application of the device.

- 5) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.
- 6) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.
- 7) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 8) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 which is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 9) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the means for attaching connecting members to anchoring members is adhesive, adhesive being applied to at least a portion of the lower surface of the connecting members.
- 10) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 9 wherein each of the first and second components comprise a plurality of release liners which are coded for removal.
- 11) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 10 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction among the plurality of release liners.
- 12) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 10 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors among the plurality of release liners.
- 13) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 further comprising a crease in the release liner adjacent the first edge.
- 14) (Cancelled) A two-stage release liner system, the two stage release liner system comprising:

- a) a release liner with a bottom surface covering the adhesive-backed surface of an adhesive-backed surface; and
- b) a tab attached to a portion of the top surface of the release liner, the tab comprising a first and a second edge, the first edge being substantially linear and attached to a portion of the release liner, the second edge extending beyond the boundary of the adhesive-backed surface.

15) (Cancelled) The two-stage release liner system of Claim 14 further comprising a crease in the release liner along the first edge of the tab.

16) (Cancelled) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.

17) (Cancelled) The two-component device of Claim 2 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.

18) (Cancelled) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.

19) (Currently Amended) A method for closing a laceration or incision, the method comprising:

- a) providing a two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
  - i) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction, the first adhesive-backed anchoring member being protected by a two-stage release liner system comprising:
    - (1) a release liner with a bottom surface covering the adhesive-backed surface of the first anchoring member; and
    - (2) a semi-rigid tab attached to a portion of the top surface of the release liner, the semi-rigid tab comprising a first and a second edge, the first edge being oriented generally parallel to the a first wound edge of the first anchoring member and attached to the release liner at a position intermediate in the release liner

between the portion of the release liner protecting the first wound edge and the portion of the release liner protecting the edge of the first anchoring member generally opposite the first wound edge, the second edge extending unattached beyond the first wound edge;

the semi-rigid tab and release liner of the second component cooperating such that when the semi-rigid tab is flipped back onto the portion of the release liner to which it is not attached by adhesive, that portion of the release liner to which the tab is not attached remains fully adhered to the anchoring member; and

- ii) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction, the second adhesive-backed anchoring member being protected by a two-stage release liner system comprising:
  - (1) a release liner with a bottom surface covering the adhesive-backed surface of the second anchoring member; and
  - (2) a semi-rigid tab attached to a portion of the top surface of the release liner, the semi-rigid tab comprising a first and a second edge, the first edge being oriented generally parallel to the a second wound edge of the second anchoring member and attached to the release liner at a position intermediate in the release liner between the portion of the release liner protecting the second wound edge and the portion of the release liner protecting the edge of the second anchoring member generally opposite the second wound edge, the second edge extending unattached beyond the second wound edge;

the semi-rigid tab and release liner of the second component cooperating such that when the semi-rigid tab is flipped back onto the portion of the release liner to which it is not attached by adhesive, that portion of the release liner to which the tab is not attached remains fully adhered to the anchoring member; and
- iii) means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the connecting members to the anchoring members forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more

connecting members, the attached portions being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members.

- b) attaching the first and second components to the skin on opposite sides of the laceration or incision, the edge of the first and second components from which the one or more connecting members extend being the edge closest to the laceration or incision;
- c) closing the laceration or incision by adjusting the position of the first and second anchoring members relative to each other in both an X and a Y dimension; and
- d) fixing the relationship between the first and second anchoring members established in step c) by attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member, and the one or more second connecting members to the second anchoring member.

20) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the device further comprises a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.

21) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling elements and anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.

22) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of connecting members are removable following application of the device.

23) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.

24) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.

- 25) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 26) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the device is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 27) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the means for attaching connecting members to anchoring members is an adhesive, adhesive being applied to at least a portion of the lower surface of the connecting members.
- 28) (Original) The method of Claim 27 wherein each of the first and second components comprise a plurality of release liners which are coded for removal.
- 29) (Original) The method of Claim 28 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction among the plurality of release liners.
- 30) (Original) The method of Claim 28 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors among the plurality of release liners.
- 31) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the device further comprises a crease in the release liner adjacent the first edge.
- 32) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 33) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 34) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.